



Pest Detection and Management Programs

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Weekly Notice, March 14, 2005

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/reports/>

Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB)

New Jersey:

As of March 9, 2005, 2,288 trees have been removed from the Middlesex/Union counties ALB infestation site. Of those 483 were infested host trees and 1,805 were high risk exposed host trees. Tree falling crews continue to work this week in the residential areas of Carteret. Currently 13 program personnel from USDA APHIS PPQ, NJDA, NJ Forest Service are performing survey, control and regulatory activities. Seven program personnel continue to perform survey and regulatory activities in the Jersey City Quarantine.

Eight USDA Forest Service Smokejumpers started working this week surveying trees in the Middlesex/Union counties ALB infestation site.

A public information session was held Thursday, March 10, at 7 p.m. in the Rahway City Library in which two local councilmen, along with approximately 30 residents were informed about the New Jersey ALB Cooperative Eradication Program, the recent expansion of the Middlesex/Union counties ALB quarantine zone in Rahway and the need to cut down approximately 1,400 more trees in the city due to the expansion. The residents asked many questions about the program and program officials supplied the answers. The residents were also asked to support the program and to get the word out to their neighbors. The meeting was covered by local media including: the Newark Star-Ledger, the Home News Tribune, the Woodbridge Sentinel, the Rahway Progress, New Jersey's Gardener News and New Brunswick WCTC-AM New Radio.

In order to obtain maximum coverage about the public information session, The New Jersey Department of Agriculture sent notices in the mail to the owners of all properties within a quarter mile radius of an infested tree that sparked the recent expansion of the quarantine zone.

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture awarded a contract to Bartlett Tree Expert Company for 12 tree climbers to work during the month of March inspecting trees in the Middlesex/Union counties ALB infestation site.

New York:

Four infested trees were found on 4 private property within one block in the Brooklyn infested core. These trees were found by ALB program personnel conducting ground inspection in the area in preparation for the 2005 treatments. Since these trees are located within the outer edge of the 2005 planned treatment area, a 1/2 mile radius treatment expansion will be added to the southeast portion of Brooklyn. To date, 6,195 infested trees have been detected in New York.

Joe Gittleman, NY Project Co-Director, and Christine Markham, National Program Director, will be meeting with Laird Draves, Contracting Officer, and Margie Thorson, Contracting Specialist, and representatives from the Davey Tree Expert Company on Monday, March 14, to negotiate the contract language for the New York 2005 treatment operations. Phil Lewis, Program Leader Insecticide and Program Technologies Section of Otis Plant Protection Center, will be attending to provide treatment technical support.

Six Forest Service Smokejumpers started surveying trees in New York City Central Park this week.

Joe Gittleman will be meeting with the Suffolk County Community Advisory Committee on March 29, in order to request an exemption to conduct chemical treatments for ALB. An annual exemption is required from the committee in order to apply chemical treatments on county property.

On Saturday, March 5, Mike Bohne, USDA Forest Service Entomologist/ALB Outreach person assigned to the New York ALB Program, gave an ALB presentation at the annual Rhode Island Tree Counsel Conference. More than 60 persons attended the presentation.



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On Tuesday, March 8, Mike Bohne, provided a booth display at the Bartlett Day during the Philadelphia Flower Show. Approximately 200 people attend the flower show.

Thursday, March 10, Mike Bohne, will give an ALB presentation during Community Board 1 Meeting in Astoria, Queens. The presentation will cover the upcoming tree treatments slated to begin in April. Outreach personnel from the NY ALB Program will attend the meeting.

On Saturday March 12, the New York ALB Program will have a display at the annual Making Brooklyn Bloom Festival, being held at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

Illinois:

The Illinois Department of Agriculture has set up a series of Public hearing meetings, slated for March 31, in Park Ridge, Bensenville and Ravenswood, to announce the deregulations of sections of the ALB Quarantine Areas in Illinois. A press event is being organized for mid-April with the Mayor of Chicago, APHIS and State officials for a deregulation signing ceremony.

As of March 5, a total of 23,685 trees have been surveyed for the year, with no signs of ALB infestations.

Three Forest Service smokejumpers started in Illinois this week to work primarily survey quality assurance.

Program Wide:

On Tuesday, March 8, 2005, a reporter with the *New London Day*, New London, CT., called requesting information on the ALB Program. The reporter was provided with information concerning the program's survey efforts, control measures, regulatory compliance and current quarantine areas in New York, New Jersey and Illinois. The story is slated to run Sunday, March 27, 2005.

Working with Ralph Snodsmith, host of WOR Radio Network's *The Garden Hotline*, to do an ALB update

during his radio show slated to air May 15 or May 29, 2005. Joe Gittleman, USDA APHIS PPQ, Co-director of the ALB Cooperative Eradication Program in New York, is scheduled to be the guest speaker.

A meeting has been tentatively scheduled with the Mauget Company in California the week of March 21, for USDA to test the "new" Generation II microinjection capsules for use in the 2005 operational chemical treatments.

The USDA contracting branch posted on Federal Business Opportunities the solicitation of trial agreements for conducting evaluations of new formulations, injection devices and other methodologies for the ALB program. The evaluations will be completed this spring by the Otis Plant Protection Center.

Contact: Christine Markham

***P. ramorum* Emergency Program**

A report in last week's original update that PPQ had confirmed that a red-tipped photinia shipped from the large Los Angeles County nursery recently found positive for *P. ramorum* and collected from a garden center in Arizona is positive for *P. ramorum* is INCORRECT. To date, no photinia from the Los Angeles nursery has been found positive. A corrected version of the March 7th update has been posted to the APHIS *P. ramorum* web site.

According to the California Department of Food and Agriculture, 13 nurseries and garden centers in California that received plants from the large Los Angeles County nursery have tested positive for *P. ramorum* as of March 15.

PPQ has distributed to the States a final draft version of the 2005 National Survey protocol. An updated statistical sampling scheme developed by CPHST was incorporated into the survey protocol.

We have sent forward a SPRO (DA-2005-05, March 14, 2005) that defines the documentation that should



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accompany shipments of non-host plants from approved non-host nurseries

We will add six new plants to the associated host list. A SPRO will define a policy that would give nurseries that are moving from non-host to host plant shippers.

Jonathan Jones attended a session on *P. ramorum* in the eastern U.S. at the annual meeting of the American Phytopathological Society's Potomac Division on March 16.

Contact: Jim Writer

Emerald Ash borer

EAB program officials and USDA-APHIS Environmental Monitoring Team members from Riverdale met with Fish and Wildlife personnel from Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, and Wisconsin in preparation of a programmatic biological assessment for those areas currently and potentially impacted by Emerald Ash Borer. Discussions involved threatened and endangered species found in areas in which program operations would be undertaken. At issue are roosting sites for the Indiana Bat, nesting sites for Bald Eagles, and emergence periods for the Copperbelly Water Snake, all of which could be impacted by a variety of activities performed by personnel.

Canada has removed an additional 10,000 ash trees in Chatham-Kent. This activity is scheduled to be completed by March 31st, and will accomplish a total removal of 34,000 ash trees in an area adjacent to their current existing ash free zone. Two ministerial orders have been signed that will give legal authority to CFIA to control firewood in Essex and Chatham-Kent and the movement of wood products between the two areas. Twenty-two fines have been levied already for illegal firewood movement.

Michigan is working with two companies bidding on removals of 19,000 ash trees in Hillsdale County in the southern portion of the Lower Peninsula. Work may progress slowly due to very wet conditions in the area.

Ohio: The North Baltimore area (Henry Township) of Ohio continues to expand to the south and northwest. 34,000 ash trees have already been removed. Toledo has 9 sites with infestations; tree inventory is on-going. The City of Toledo has made a decision to cut an additional 200 yard radius around program cuts of infested street trees. They have removed 175 trees thus far.

Maumee State Forest: the harvest of marketable saw logs has occurred in this area as part of the DNR ash reduction plan. Three companies in NW Ohio have received compliance agreements in order to accept this material. The search continues to find local markets for smaller trees and chips in order to engage the private sector of the commercial market. Options for these materials could be boiler fuel, paper manufacturers, or metallurgical processors among others.

ODA is adding additional field staff, one program coordinator, and six crew leaders to their staff in order to accomplish program activities this year. ODA is exploring the possibility of establishing a marshalling yard for the Toledo area. Asplundh is looking at placing a marshalling yard in the Lucas County area.

Indiana: Indiana has had three new sites confirmed during the last three weeks in La Grange County. The lower SE corner of La Grange, their largest site, has added two additional extensions, bringing the infested area to approximately 100 acres. The NW corner has another 1/2 mile extension, which will add Newberry Township to the quarantine. 28,000 ash trees have been inventoried; 18,000 have been removed. The remainder is scheduled to be removed by mid-April.

Ash removals in Stueben County have been completed. Clean up continues. The total impacted area is 2-3 square miles.

Maryland: the Maryland Department of Agriculture, in addition to other EAB trapping activities, will survey in Garrett County in western Maryland. They are interested in determining the impact of firewood



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movement into an area with summer residences around a lake area. Approximately 50 sites will be surveyed.

Outreach: as part of the Tri-State Communication Initiative, an outdoor advertising campaign will begin in May. The intent is to deliver the "don't move firewood" message to the public. Billboards will be placed in the northern half of Indiana and Ohio plus Michigan in order to capture the attention of individuals traveling into and out of these states.

Contact: Deborah McPartlan

Citrus Canker

Anthracnose (NOT citrus canker) on oranges entering Hawaii

Recently there have been reports that oranges collected at pre-clearance inspections conducted at the Honolulu airport had what appeared to be symptoms of citrus canker disease. Fruit with similar lesions was also found in a number of local supermarkets. In both cases the fruit could be identified as a commercial product produced in Florida and legally imported into Hawaii. Samples of this fruit were sent to the PPQ plant disease identification laboratory in Beltsville and to the CPHST laboratory, also in Beltsville. Based on both morphology and on the results of PCR tests, it now has been determined that the symptoms were actually anthracnose, caused by common Colletotrichum species, and were not significant. In follow-up discussions with plant pathologists in Florida, it appears that this is a fairly common late season occurrence on some fruit varieties grown in the State, and has been observed in several previous years. Based on these conclusions, no regulatory or control actions were required.

Contact: Stephen Poe

Pest Detection

The National CAPS Committee met in San Antonio, TX on March 8 and 9. The group spent time working with CPHST personnel on prioritizing the criteria use in the pest ranking for FY 2006. Because of this effort, the new revised pest list for 2006 will be available soon so that state CAPS committees can begin formulating their

workplans. The committee also covered topics such as the CAPS Internal Review, the formation of a NAPIS sub-group to deal with database issues, developing a strategic plan for PD, and the National CAPS meeting scheduled for December, 2005.

Contact: Coanne O'Hern